Pioneer of Fifteenth-Century Discovery: Henry the Navigator.

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MEDITATING ADVENTUROUS VOYAGES FOR HIS SHIPS IN UNKNOWN SEAS: HENRY THE NAVIGATOR, A PORTUGUESE PRINCE WITH AN ENGLISH MOTHER, AT HIS CASTLE NEAR CAPE ST. VINCENT.

Don Henry, Duke of Viseo (1394-1460), fifth son of King John I. of Portugal and Philippa of Lancaster, sister of King Henry IV. of England, was the real promoter of the adventurous voyages of discovery which marked the fifteenth century. At quite an early age he developed a strong taste for maritime discoveries. Having sojourned in Africa as Governor of Ceuta, captured by his father from the Moors, he obtained from the Arabs valuable information regarding the inhabitants of Central Africa and of Guinea. On his return to Portugal, he left the Court and retired to Sagres, close to Cape St. Vincent, where the sight of the sea kept in mind his bold plans. Surrounded by sailors and cosmographers, he spent long days in meditation gazing at the sea, to whose immensity no bounds had then been set. He sent ships along the coasts of Africa, with orders to push ever further on. Owing to the enterprise of this Prince, since famous as Henry the Navigator, the Portuguese rounded Cape Non, formed colonies in Madeira and the Canaries, discovered Cape Verd, and advanced along the coast as far as Sierra Leone. Don Henry died at Sagres in 1460.

WINTER.

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